

Avoiding A Dead Faith

Day One – Reviewing Active Faith

Read James 2: 14-17

James is pressing upon believers that faith produces works. How have you seen this in your own life? Can you describe a time when your faith in God has moved you to do something for others? Has God's love for you changed your view of the people around you?

Pray and ask God to open your eyes to see areas in your life that your faith can be turned into action.

Day Two – Submitting Ourselves to God

Read James 2: 18-19

It can be easy to fall into the routine of reading, hearing or knowing God's word but not submitting our lives to Him. What does submitting to God look like in your life? Has there ever been a time when you consciously chose not to submit? Why?

Pray and ask God how to submit to His word. Try to be still, submitting your time, mind and body to the Lord.

Day Three – Salvation and Others

Read James 2:20-26

James gives two examples of righteous people: "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," (v 23) and "Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did" (v 25). What differences do you see in these examples? How do these apply to your life and believers of today?

Pray and ask God to help you make choices that will show your faith through words and action.

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James – Doing Church Right #4

James 2:14-26

James 2:14-26 (NIV) ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

1. True Faith is Action .

James 2:14-17 (NIV) ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 John 3:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

2. True Faith is Submitting to God.

James 2:18-19 (NIV) ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV) Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Mark 1:24 (NIV) ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

3. True Faith is obeying .

James 2:20-24 (NIV) ²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

Genesis 22: 1-19 The Sacrifice of Isaac

4. True Faith is for everyone .

James 2:25-26 (NIV) ²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Joshua 2 Rahab Hides the Spies